

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/528,448
Response to OA dated November 8, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 3-7 and 9 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicant regards as his invention. The Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated November 8, 2007.

Independent Claim 3, as amended, is to a dial module having a dial with a design part, a sheet-shaped light source for illuminating the design part, and a flexible printed circuit fixed to a back surface of the light source. The dial is printed directly on a front surface of the sheet-shaped light source.

Independent Claim 5, as amended, is to a dial module having a sheet-shaped dial with a design part on a front surface of the dial, and a sheet-shaped light source fixed to a back surface of the dial for illuminating the design part. The sheet-shaped light source is provided with a flexible printed circuit printed directly on a back surface of the sheet-shaped light source.

Independent Claim 7, as amended, is to a dial module having a sheet-shaped light source, wherein a dial with a design part is printed directly on a front surface of the sheet-shaped light source while a flexible printed circuit is printed directly on a back surface of the sheet-shaped light source.

In the Office Action, Claims 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Salmon (U.S. Patent No. 5,406,303). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

The Office Action alleges that Salmon teaches a dial module having a sheet-shaped dial (30

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and 28) with a design part (46, 48, 50 and 52) formed directly on the front face of sheet-shaped light source (26) fixed to the back surface of the dial for illuminating the design part, a flexible printed circuit board (24) fixed directly on the back surface of the light source, a terminal part (138) for attaching an additional component thereto (motors 22), and the dial, light source, and circuit board are substantially the same shape.

In a "Response to Arguments" portion of the Office Action, it is recited that the Applicant does not claim that the dial, light source and flexible printed circuit are not separate parts.

It is respectfully submitted that it appears as though the Office Action is not interpreting the claim language "formed directly" to mean not a separate part. Therefore, the Applicant has amended Claims 3-7 to recite that the dial and the flexible printed circuit are printed directly on a surface of the sheet-shaped light source, as described at page 31, line 26 to page 32, line 4 of the present specification, so as to clearly distinguish over Salmon.

In view of the amendments to Claims 3-7 and the above remarks, removal of the rejection is respectfully requested

In the Office Action, Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salmon in view of Garay (U.S. Patent No. 6,183,099). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of Claim 9 depending from Claim 3, which is discussed above and the amendments to Claims 3 and 9, removal of the rejection is respectfully requested..

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In the Office Action, Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salmon in view of Kumazawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,333,697). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of Claim 15 depending from Claim 3, which is discussed above, removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 3-9 and 15, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.


If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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